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## China, Peoples Republic of

### Livestock and Products

## AQSIQ Comments on Recent U.S.-China BSE and AI Technical Meetings

**2005**

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**Report Highlights:**

On June 8, 2005, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of China issued a notification on its website commenting on the U.S.-China BSE and Avian Influenza Technical Talks held in Beijing during May 31 - June 2, 2005. AQSIQ indicates that it needs more technical exchanges with the USDA on BSE concerns.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
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Unscheduled Report  
Beijing [CH1]  
[CH]

## Summary

From May 31 to June 1, 2005, the U.S.-Sino BSE technical seminar was held in Beijing. This meeting was followed by an avian influenza and poultry technical seminar on June 2.

The U.S. team, headed by USDA Under Secretary Bill Hawks, consisted of FAS, APHIS, FSIS and FDA officials. AQSIQ's Vice Minister Ge Zhirong led the Chinese side, joined by other AQSIQ officials and the Ministry of Agriculture. Also present were four out the five Chinese BSE scientists who participated in a BSE technical study in the United States last fall. The U.S. side explained the importance of the U.S. beef access issue, and that the U.S. has tested over 370,000 cattle for BSE with no positive results. The focus of the two days was on the BSE measures the U.S. has taken and the safety of U.S. beef, and the U.S. experts addressed Chinese technical concerns regarding BSE.

While unwilling to make any commitments regarding removal of China's current BSE-related import suspension on U.S. beef, AQSIQ and MOA participants did agree to submit any additional questions in writing.

On June 8, 2005, AQSIQ issued a website notice providing comments on the BSE and avian influenza technical meetings. Though AQSIQ's comments on the meetings are positive, China indicates more bilateral exchanges are needed to discuss BSE concerns.

## Unofficial Translation

*June 8, 2005*

*In respond to USDA's request, China and the United States held a bilateral seminar on BSE in Beijing from May 31 to June 1, 2005. AQSIQ Vice Minister, Mr. Ge Zhirong, and USDA Under Secretary, Mr. Bill Hawks, headed their respective teams and participated in the seminar. On June 1, 2005, Mr. Li Changjiang, Minister of AQSIQ met with the Under Secretary, Mr. Bill Hawks.*

*The two sides had in-depth discussions on BSE technical issues, U.S. BSE prevention measures and the relevant OIE regulations. Both sides had a better scientific understanding of BSE. The Chinese experts also had a better understanding of the BSE prevention system in the U.S. The seminar was conducted under a friendly atmosphere and was successful with the joint efforts of the BSE experts from the two countries.*

*Since BSE is complicated, complete understanding of the disease is still limited, but both sides expressed their willingness to continue cooperation and exchanges on many issues--including BSE—in order to jointly resolve quarantine concerns of each side during trade.*

*During the seminar, the two sides also exchanged views on China's cooked poultry exports to the U.S., and on a bilateral avian influenza seminar that will be held in Beijing in the latter half of 2005.*

(End of report)